

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

April 2012 Edition

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Welcome!

Spring has sprung and with the warmer weather, comes great opportunities for you to engage in during the week and on the weekends! In this edition, you will find informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with me so that they can be reviewed for inclusion in this newsletter!

Want to share your thoughts on legislation under consideration by the County Council? I've included towards the end of this edition opportunities on how you can do so.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at

cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

14th Annual Talent Showcase!

The Howard County Center of African American Culture, Inc. will sponsor its 14th annual Talent Showcase on **Saturday, April 14, 2012, 4pm** at Howard Community College. The showcase will feature elementary and middle school students. Youth, ages 5-13 with talents in art, dance, gymnastics, oratory, instrumental and vocal music are all welcome. For more details, call **Wylene Burch** at 410-715-1921.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair!

This premier event showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, to be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10am-2pm**, will offer attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with mortgage lenders, homebuilders and remodelers, housing specialists, real estate experts and County personnel. There will also be educational workshops, hands-on seminars and give-a-ways.

The Housing Lottery will take place at 1:30pm. At which time, Councilman Calvin Ball has been selected to identify the two winners from those who have already applied. The event is located at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road** in Columbia. For more details, call 410-313-6320.



Children's Discovery Fair!

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hands-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. This event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way** in Columbia. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Food Bank. For more information, call Debbie Yare at 410-313-1940 or DYare@howardcountymd.gov.

5th Annual GreenFest!



GreenFest is a free family event featuring green vendors, workshops, demonstrations, a free shredding event, activities for all ages and tips on how to reduce waste and green your home, workplace and lifestyle. This year's theme is "Saving the Environment One Yard at a Time".

Back for its 5th consecutive year, this FREE event will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012** from **10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. There will be something for all ages and will feature over 100 vendors and a new mini farmers market. For more info, visit www.hcgreenfest.org or call **Lindsay DeMarzo** at **410-313-4373**.

PlanHoward 2030 Needs Your Feedback!

PlanHoward 2030 is an update of the 2000 Howard County General Plan. The Task Force created to review and offer recommendations has created a preliminary draft which it would like to share with the public. After several open houses, a public hearing has now been scheduled for **Thursday, April 18, 2012, 7pm** in the **Banneker Room** of the George Howard Building, **3430 Court House Drive** in Ellicott City.

The Technical Staff report can be found online at <http://www.planhoward.org/GP2030tsr.pdf>. For more details on the history of the Task Force, visit www.planhoward.org.

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your county. your plan.



Collision Avoidance Training!

The Howard County Police Department announces its 2012 Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) which is designed to teach new drivers, ages 16-19, how to handle their car. This two-day class teaches hands-on techniques, adapted from law enforcement for evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and much more.

The next class will be held **Friday, April 20, 6pm-10pm** and **April 20 8am-4pm** at the **James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, 2200 Scott Sheeler Drive** in Marriottsville.. The cost to each student is \$95 and space is limited. To register, call **410-313-3758** and for more details call **410-313-2236**.

Earth Day Celebration!



It's that time of year again where we join together and celebrate Earth Day in Howard County. You're invited to put down some roots and plant a tree at West Friendship Park on **Saturday, April 21, 2012 9am-12pm**. Bring your family, friends and children as all are welcome. This event is sponsored by the Howard County Recreation & Parks. For more details, call **Ann Combs** at **410-313-4624** or email ACombs@howardcountymd.gov.

For those who cannot make this event, consider taking a few moments to join with neighbors and do something green in your community.

Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Workshop!

Human trafficking is defined as the exploitation, involuntary servitude and/or compelled service of an individual. Victims of human trafficking include not only individuals from poverty-engulfed regions, but this is also something that happens in the United States. To help raise awareness, the Howard County Commission for Women, together with the Howard County Advocacy Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (HoCoAGAST), will host a workshop and panel discussion "Stand Up Against Human Trafficking" on **Saturday, April 21, 2012, 2-4:30pm** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way** in Columbia.

This event is FREE and open to the public and will explore the many facets of human trafficking and identify measures residents can take to help prevent and identify victims of this tragedy. Reservations are requested but not required. For more details, call **410-313-6400** or email JWoltze@howardcountymd.gov.

Share Your Opinion on the Howard County Public School System!

You are cordially invited to share your comments on the Howard County Public School System through the Goal 2 Survey. This survey measures your attitudes in five categories: welcoming environment, physical environment, discipline, nurturing learning environment and diversity/commonality. Your responses should reflect your feelings about the school your child attends. To participate, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Goal2ParentEnglish>. For assistance or for more info, call **410-313-7475** or **410-313-6755**.

Friendly Reminder... Don't Forget To Vote in Your Village Elections!

Consider engaging in your Columbia Village and share your voice on who you would like to see elected to your For most Villages including Long Reach and Oakland Mills, Election Day will be held on, **Saturday, April 21st**. In Long Reach, elections will be held at the Stonehouse, 8775 Cloudleap Court 9:30am-12pm and there are three positions available on the board. In Oakland Mills, elections will be held at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place from 8:30am-5pm and there will be eight seats available and one seat available on the Columbia Council.

If you reside in another Village, be sure to visit

<http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/volunteering/openings.cfm> for the specific details on your village election.

Family First Parenting Workshop Offering Parenting Tips!

Join us for a special series designed for parents and guardians raising children from birth to age 8. Learn about child development, how to encourage self-esteem and good behavior, positive guidance and discipline and how to keep children safe and healthy. Classes meet **6:15-8:15pm** every other **Thursday through April 16** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way** in Columbia. It's \$5 per class. Financial assistance may be available. Each class, offered in an interactive group format, will include practical tips and advice for handling common situations, as well as hands-on activities. Participants who complete all 6 classes will receive a Certificate of Completion. To learn more, call **410-313-1940**.

April is Financial Literacy Month... Financial Education Classes Now Available!

The Howard County Financial Education Alliance and the Maryland CASH Academy have joined together to bring FREE financial education classes to Howard County. Classes are taught by experienced professionals from public, private and non-profit sectors. There are no sales and no strings attached... just information to help you maximize your money. Below is a list of classes being offered in Howard County.

- **Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7pm:** Rebuild Your Finances After a Storm, East Columbia Branch Library
- **Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 7pm:** Savvy Social Security Planning

For more details, visit www.mdcashacademy.org or call **410-528-8006**.

Bowling For a Change!

On **Saturday, April 21, 2012**, join the Arc of Howard County's "Bowling for a Change". This event will be held at the **Brunswick Columbia Lanes 7-9pm**. Teams of 4-6 bowlers can register to participate. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$500 per team from friends and associates who want to support them and The Arc. Individuals can also register separately and will be put on a team. Lane sponsorships are available at \$100 each.

Proceeds benefit The Arc of Howard County's vocational and residential support and services, respite care and other programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more info, call **Kathy Swanson** at **410-730-0638 x 306**.

Attention Students... College Fair Comes to Howard County!

On **Monday, April 23, 2012**, meet with representatives from colleges and universities from across the country and around the corner. Discover what different schools can offer, such as class size, extracurricular activities and academic specialties. Speak with admissions counselors and school alumni and learn what it takes to be accepted to the school of your choice.

This event will be held at **Reservoir High School, 1150 Scaggsville Rd** in Fulton from **6:30-8:30pm**. For more details, call **410-313-7750**.

The Path Forward – Cycling Innovations from Across the US!

Cycling is on the rise and more communities are making investments to make it easier and safer. Join the Columbia Association on **Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 7:30-9pm** in the **Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane** for The Path Forward – Cycling Innovations From Across the US. Jennifer Toole, lead consultant for Connecting Columbia and founder of Toole Design Group, will speak to attendees about innovative communities across the US and how they are making way for bicycling.

Registration is appreciated, but not required. Please RSVP to <http://cycling-innovations.eventbrite.com>. For more details, call **Scott Templin** at **410-715-3166**.

Anti-Bullying Seminar!

Join the PTA Council on **April 26, 2012** for its 2012 Anti-Bullying Seminar, which the council will be co-sponsoring with the School System. This will be a great opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to educate themselves on effective techniques to deal with and prevent bullying.

For more information, contact **Carletta** at safety@ptachc.org.

Long Reach Hosts Plant Swap!

Need some plants or want to drop off some plants?!? Bring your unwanted perennials to share with neighbors. Don't have any plants to share but need some for your garden? Stop by and pick some up! This event will be held on **Saturday, May 5, 2012 9am-12pm** at the **Jeffers Hill Neighborhood Center**. For more details, call **410-730-8113**.

Hope for Hopeless 5K Run!



Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball in partnership with Mid-Maryland Baptist Association will host a Hope for Hopeless 5K run and 1 mile Fun Walk on **Saturday, May 5, 2012** at Rockburn Park in Elkridge. Registration begins at 8am the race will begin at 9am. Proceeds will benefit the Route 1 Day Center. Registration fees are \$20 per runner before 4/15 and \$30 per runner after 4/15. For details or to register, visit <http://www.hopeforhomeless5k.com/> or call **410-549-7156**.

Route 1 Day Center Needs Supplies!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit.

There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at www.daycenter.org.

37th Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards!

Do you know someone who is an ordinary person doing an extraordinary job? Someone who volunteers at a food bank? Who created a program transforming children's lives? A team of people who selflessly give their time to provide health care, clothing, counseling or support that somehow improves people's lives? The Association of Community Services is looking for these people and wants to honor them at the 37th Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards luncheon which will be held on June 20, 2012.

Taking the time to nominate someone you know not only recognizes people who often go unrecognized, but it focuses attention on the vital work of the organization or cause which benefits from their efforts. This recognition can lead to new awareness and ability to help additional people. Nominations are due by **Friday, April 27, 2012**. For applications, visit www.acshoco.org and can be submitted via email to info@acshoco.org. For more details, call **301-490-7434**.

Columbia Home Tour Seeks Distinct Homes to Showcase!



The Columbia Home Tour is now seeking distinct Columbia homes to showcase at the third annual event to be held on **Sunday, June 3, 2012** from **11am-5pm**. Homeowners will be asked to open their doors to allow participants to embark upon a self-guided tour. Homes of any size or style with diverse architecture or unique characteristics are sought. Nominations including self-nominations are welcome!

For more information, contact **Carol Hobelmann** at **410-730-3987** or email wlevents@columbiavillages.org.

Exhibitors Sought for 4th annual Men's Health Fair!

Are you in the fitness field and want to share your helpful tips on leading a healthy lifestyle? Do you own a business or restaurant that offers healthy foods that you want to share with the public? Are you a physician that's dedicated to educating the public on health related illnesses? If so or if you are in the health and/or fitness field and are interested in being an exhibitor, please contact **Kimberly Pruim** at 410-313-3105 or email kpruim@howardcountymd.gov.

The 4th annual Howard County Men's Health Fair will be held on **Saturday, June 9, 2012 10am-2pm** at **Howard High School**. This event is FREE open to the public and sponsored by Howard County Councilman Calvin Ball and Howard County General Hospital.

Attention Long Reach Residents... Beautify Your Cul-de-Sacs!

The Long Reach Community Association is offering landscaping grants, up to \$200 if your plan is approved which could include purchase of plant materials. Coupons will also be given to local nurseries to help stretch those dollars! Grants are limited, so hurry and apply. Application packets will be available **Memorial Day** through **August 30** at the Stonehouse or call 410-730-8113.

Calling All Artists!

The Bernice Kish Gallery at Slayton House is now accepting applications for artists to exhibit in the galleries for the 2013 season. The Gallery Screening Committee will begin reviewing applications in the spring. The deadline to submit applications is **Friday, June 1, 2012**. For application information or for additional details, visit www.wildelake.org. You can mail applications to Carole Black, Gallery Director at **Bernice Kish Gallery, Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane** in Columbia or email CJBlack@columbiavillages.org.

Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed in fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at 410-313-3694. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call 410-290-2620. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at 410-799-1097.

Share Your Opinion on the 2012-2013 HCPSS Calendar!

The HPSS Calendar Committee is currently developing a calendar proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Your input is very important in the process, especially when changes are under consideration. Take a brief moment to share your thoughts by answering a few questions on the survey. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PR2B2ST>.

Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on the following Boards and Commissions: Commission on Disability Issues, Animal Matters Hearing Board, Board of Social Services, Commission on Aging, the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board and the Consumer Affairs Advisory Board. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:30pm. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at 4pm in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission on Aging.** Commission members serve five year terms and represent diverse professional backgrounds, various age and ethnic groups and different geographic areas throughout the county. The Commission works with the Office on Aging to plan activities, researches county and state legislation that would impact the health and wellbeing of older adults and their families and provides testimony when appropriate. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in promoting successful aging for older adults in Howard County and be able to attend the Commission's meetings held the last Monday of each month at 7pm at the Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Road. For details, call **410-313-6410**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia.
- **Board of Electrical Examiners.** Commission members serve five year terms and is comprised of seven members who must include two licensees under electrical regulations or representatives of an electrical inspection bureau, one electrical engineer and four general public members. Board members are responsible for making recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP), the County Executive and the County Council on all matters relating to electrical work in Howard County, including the conduct of electrical business and licenses. To be eligible, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older and have an interest in electrical work. The Board meets on an as needed basis; meetings are held at 5pm in DILP, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. For more info, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/electralexaminersboard.htm> or call **410-313-1820**.

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm. For more info, call **410-313-1181**.

Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call 410-730-6030.

Calling All Youth... Voices for Change Youth Coalition Seeks Your Help!

Are you interested in making positive change in your community by working on issues important to you? Would you like to get to know other students from high schools around the county? Would you like to be a part of the team of students and adults that organize the annual Youth Summit? Then Voices for Change Youth Coalition is for you!

General Student Membership is limited to Howard County high school students (public, private and/or home school) and Howard County 8th grade students (public, private and/or home school). Students must be in good standing with their respective school to be eligible. Active membership is defined as participating in at least 60% of the total meetings throughout the year. Meetings are twice a month on alternating Tuesdays from 5-7pm and dinner is provided. Meetings are held at HC Recreation & Parks located at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For more details, check out the website at www.HCYouth.org or contact Meg Mekelburg at MMekelburg7@verizon.net.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information?

The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

Here is a list of the upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 8-10am** at The Other Barn: BBI Monthly Meeting. FREE to attend.
- **Thursday, April 26, 2012, 12-1:30pm** at 1st Floor of 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive : BBI Brown Bag: Small Business Opportunities Using Teaming Agreements, Mentor-Protégé Agreements and Affiliation Traps. FREE to attend. Water and snacks will be provided.

The database is FREE of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

4H Club: Meets every 2nd Friday of the month at The Other Barn 3:30-5pm. For youth in grades 3 and above Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling **410-313-6444** or visiting www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org. These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2011** and must be scheduled in advance by calling **410-313-6444**. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Looking for personal safety tips? Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interesting in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The “Door to HealthCare” provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family makeUp, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

“The Door to HealthCare” is located to the rear of **7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD**. For further information, call **410-988-3737**.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you’re looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor. Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These “minute clinics” are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call **410-313-6300**.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/ResidentialRecycling.htm> or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/departments.aspx?ID=815>.

Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call **410-997-0304** or visit www.dvcenter.org.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term to begin in August 2011. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Departments.aspx?ID=4294967600>.

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http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

"Build more bridges and fewer walls."